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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, United States Capitol
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Mr. Speaker:

There is an ongoing public health emergency in my hometown of Flint, Mich. that requires immediate federal action. For two years, because of a failure of government, nearly 100,000 people living in Flint have not had access to safe drinking water due to lead contamination. This is simply unacceptable. The Congress has it in its capacity to help and must act to resolve this crisis.

Flint families have been exposed to dangerous levels of lead in their drinking water since 2014, when their water source was switched from Lake Huron to the Flint River. This water source switch resulted in lead – a dangerous neurotoxin with lifelong impacts – to leach into the water supply. Although the effects of lead exposure are permanent, there are ways the federal government can act – right now – to help mitigate these effects, particularly for children, who are most susceptible to lead poisoning.

In times of crisis, Congress has repeatedly acted, in a bipartisan fashion, to provide aid to Americans in need. One of the first votes I cast as a Member of Congress was to provide billions of dollars in relief to victims of Hurricane Sandy. While this disaster did not affect my district, I voted for this aid because Americans were suffering. Mr. Speaker, the people in Flint are suffering – they need our help too.

I respectfully request that Congress consider a Flint aid package, especially as we are set to consider other public health emergencies and humanitarian crises, including the opioid epidemic, the Zika virus, or the fiscal situation in Puerto Rico. The federal government has a moral responsibility to ensure that all Americans, including Flint families, have access to safe drinking water.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Dan Kildee
MEMBER OF CONGRESS